

Draft Southeast PTO Meeting

May 2, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Attending: Julie Brown, Kimberly Clark, Monique Brown, Esther Soffer Roberts, Gwen Sgro, Erin Ballou, Patty Braithwaite, Cyndi Wells, Jessica Higham, Margherita Balsamo, Andrea Lennon, Fred Baruzzi, Mike Kelly, Michele Boskovic, Kathleen Krider

Safe Routes to School

Kathleen Krider – began the PTO meeting explaining that Safe Routes to School is a program that is designed to make walking and bicycling to school safer for children. She told the PTO the town can apply for a grant to fund this program and would like Southeast School to participate in the grant application. Kathleen Krider would like to see a Safe Route path that runs from Rte. 195 to the library and Southeast School. Southeast will send out surveys to parents and the community to gauge the reaction to building a Safe Route path.

Monique Brown – asked who would be responsible for writing the grant for this?

Kathleen Krider – explained that the Town Planner is responsible for filling out the grant information.

Kathleen Krider –continued the presentation for Safe Routes to School presentation by explaining that traffic dangers would be addressed when building the Safe Route. In order for the path to follow Route 89 the Safe Route would need to be built off of the road. Kathleen Krider explained that having children walk to school has unintended consequences of higher test scores and lower rates of obesity. Kathleen Krider made some suggestions on how to give children an incentive to walk to school. Some examples were walking Wednesdays, walking school trains, and having the faculty walk with the students. She then listed issues Southeast School will be dealing with when building the Safe Route path. Some examples of these issues are lack of sidewalks, heavy traffic, and difficult crossing areas.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – asked if bicycles would use the same path as the children walking path.

Kathleen Krider – explained that whether bicycles will use the same path depends on how the path is engineered.

Kathleen Krider – told the PTO you can get more information from the Safe Routes website www.walkitbikeit.org.

Kathleen Krider – explained to the PTO about a new program called 95210, which represents 9 hours of sleep, 5 servings of fruits and vegetables, 2 hours of screen time, 1 hour of exercise, and 0 servings sugared beverages.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – asked if the grant covered the entire cost?

Kathleen Krider – told Norma Fisher-Doiron that the path will be completely covered by the grant.

Andrea Lennon – asked Kathleen if local private property owners have been spoken to yet.

Kathleen Krider – told Andrea that they have not spoken to the private owners yet, but the town decides where to place the path and will handle communication.

Fred Baruzzi – agreed that Mansfield and the state would work together to come up with a plan for the Safe Route path.

Mike Kelly – asked who would be responsible for cleaning the path after it is completed.

Kathleen Krider – explained that going forward the town would be responsible.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that she has a proposed survey that she will send home with the children.

Andrea Lennon – asked what the material will the path be made of?

Fred Baruzzi – told the PTO that it would most likely be black top and then mentioned that this path might require the town to make route 89 safer to accommodate it by straightening the road.

Officer Elections Results:

President - Cyndi Wells

Vice President - Jessica Higham

Treasurer - Gwen Sgro

Julie Brown – mentioned that the PTO will have to vote at next meeting on whether to donate to the library to purchase passes for the New Britain Museum and Peabody Museum.

Michele Boskovic – asked if these passes are being used and if the PTO could get numbers?

Andrea Lennon – mentioned that they got that information last year and told Michele that the passes are used often.

Julie Brown – mentioned to the PTO, that Festival on the Green offered to give the Southeast PTO a table at the festival. Julie told the PTO that they were the same set up last year but the PTO declined this offer.

PTO decided to decline the offer from Festival on the Green for this year.

Andrea Lennon – mentioned to the PTO that Bill Bradley is requesting for her to fill out the Maintenance Request Form when requesting tables and chairs. Andrea is concerned because she has never had to fill out this form in the past.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told Andrea she would look into this as she doesn't believe that it is the PTO's responsibility to fill out this form.

Andrea Lennon – told the PTO that the permit is filled out for the 50/50 raffle with the town and state. Andrea explained that two plaques need to be displayed and the person who is selling the tickets will need ID tags.

Jessica Higham – told the PTO that not all the booths are sold yet for the tag sale and she will take donations (clean) to be sold at a “Southeast table”.

Vice President’s Report

Andrea Lennon – went through the list of events where she still needs volunteers for next year.

Andrea Lennon – updated the PTO, stating that the school dance was a success.

President’s Report

Julie Brown – informed the PTO that an E.O Smith Budget Meeting will be May 3rd at the Town Hall.

Principal’s Report:

Norma Fisher-Doiron – told the PTO that due to the size of the classes for 2nd Grade, Mr. Maheu will be moving to the 1st Grade next year. Next year there will be three Kindergarten Classes, three 1st Grades, two 2nd Grades, three 3rd Grades, and three 4th Grades.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – explained to the PTO the process that is used for classroom placement.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that Southeast School is still looking for a nurse for next year. She explained that the current school nurse was a long term substitute.

Ester Soffer Roberts motioned to accept the meeting minutes and **Julie Brown** seconded the motion.

Cyndi Wells motioned to accept the Treasurers’ Report and **Andrea Lennon** seconded the motion.

Kimberly Clark – mentioned that she is going to have to take **Gwen Sgro** and **Cyndi Wells** to the bank to give them signing permission for PTO funds.

Michele Boskovic – volunteered to be the International Parent Liaison. This would be a new role at the school that would help international parents when entering the Southeast School system. She used the example of finding pediatricians in the area.

9:12 pm the PTO meeting adjourned